

1 S.169

2 Introduced by Senators Sirotkin and Zuckerman

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Agriculture; education; farm to school

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make multiple  
7 amendments to the requirements of the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School  
8 Program (Program), including specifying the purpose and State goal of the  
9 Program.

10 An act relating to the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 211 is amended to read:

13 CHAPTER 211. THE ROZO MCLAUGHLIN

14 FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

15 § 4719. PURPOSE AND STATE GOAL

16 (a) Purpose. It is the purpose of this chapter to establish a farm-to-school  
17 program to:

18 (1) encourage Vermont residents in developing healthy and lifelong  
19 habits of eating nutritious local foods;

1           (2) maximize use by Vermont schools of fresh and locally grown,  
2           produced, or processed food;

3           (3) establish a nutrition education program that educates Vermont  
4           students regarding healthy eating habits through the use of educational  
5           materials, classes, and hands-on techniques that inform students of the  
6           connections between farming and the foods that students consume;

7           (4) increase the size and stability of direct sales markets available to  
8           farmers; and

9           (5) increase participation of Vermont students in school meal programs  
10          by increasing the selection of available foods.

11          (b) State goal. It is the goal of the Farm-to-School Program to establish a  
12          food system that by 2025:

13           (1) engages 75 percent of Vermont schools in an integrated education  
14           program that incorporates community-based learning; and

15           (2) purchases 50 percent of food from local or regional food sources.

16          § 4720. DEFINITIONS

17           As used in this chapter, “Farm-to-School Program” means an integrated  
18           education program that utilizes community-based learning opportunities to  
19           connect schools with nearby farms to provide students with locally produced  
20           fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy and protein products, and other nutritious,  
21           locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks; help children

1 develop healthy eating habits; provide nutritional and agricultural education in  
2 the classroom, cafeteria, and school garden; and improve farmers' incomes and  
3 direct access to markets.

4 § 4721. LOCAL FOODS GRANT PROGRAM

5 (a) There is created in the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets the  
6 Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program to award local grants for the  
7 purpose of helping Vermont schools develop and sustain relationships with  
8 local farmers and producers, enriching the educational experience of students,  
9 improve the health of Vermont children, and enhancing Vermont's agricultural  
10 economy.

11 (b) A school, a school district, a consortium of schools, or a consortium of  
12 school districts may apply to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
13 for a grant award to:

14 (1) fund equipment, resources, training, and materials that will help to  
15 increase use of local foods in the School Food Service Program;

16 (2) fund items, including local ~~farm~~ food products, gardening supplies,  
17 field trips to farms, and stipends to visiting farmers, that will help teachers to  
18 use hands-on educational techniques to teach children about nutrition and  
19 farm-to-school connections; and

20 (3) ~~provide fund~~ professional development and technical assistance, in  
21 partnership with the Agency of Education and farm-to-school technical service

1 providers, to help teachers and members of the farm-to-school community  
2 educate students about nutrition and farm-to-school connections and assist  
3 schools in developing a farm-to-school program.

4 (c) The Secretaries of Agriculture, Food and Markets and of Education and  
5 the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with farmers, food service  
6 workers, ~~and~~ educators, and farm-to-school technical service providers jointly  
7 shall ~~jointly~~ adopt rules relating to the content of the grant application and the  
8 criteria for making awards.

9 (d) The Secretary shall determine that there is significant interest in the  
10 school community before making an award and shall give priority  
11 consideration to schools and school districts that are developing farm-to-school  
12 connections and education and that are making progress toward the  
13 implementation of the Vermont ~~nutrition and fitness policy guidelines~~ School  
14 Wellness Policy Guidelines developed by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and  
15 Markets, the Agency of Education, and the Department of Health, ~~dated~~  
16 ~~November 2005~~ updated in June 2015 or of the successor of these guidelines.

17 (e) No award shall be greater than \$15,000.00.

18 § 4722. FARM ASSISTANCE; SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD  
19 AND MARKETS

20 (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall work with  
21 existing programs and organizations to develop and implement educational

1 opportunities for farmers to help them to increase their markets through selling  
2 their products to schools and State government agencies and participating in  
3 the federal food commodities program, including the federal Department of  
4 Defense Fresh Program, and selling to regulated child care programs  
5 participating in the ~~Adult and Child~~ and Adult Care Food Program.

6 (b) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of  
7 Education shall work with distributors that sell products to schools and State  
8 government agencies to increase the availability of local products.

9 (c) For the purposes of this section and section 4723 of this title, the  
10 Secretary may provide funds to:

11 (1) one or more technical assistance providers to provide farm-to-school  
12 education and teacher training to more school districts and to assist the  
13 Secretaries of Agriculture, Food and Markets and of Education to carry out  
14 farmer and food service worker training; or

15 (2) farmers in the State who demonstrate the need to increase production  
16 capacity for the purpose of supplying products to schools in the State that:

17 (A) are participating in the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School  
18 Program under this chapter; and

19 (B) plan to increase the amount of fresh local food used in the  
20 school's nutritional program.

1 § 4723. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOD SERVICE

2 PERSONNEL

3 (a) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of  
4 Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Commissioner of Health, shall offer  
5 expanded regional training sessions for public school food service personnel  
6 and child care resource development specialists ~~as funds are made available~~.  
7 Training shall include information about strategies for ~~purchasing~~ procuring,  
8 processing, and serving locally grown foods, especially with regard to federal  
9 procurement program requirements, as well as information about nutrition,  
10 obesity prevention, coping with severe food allergies, and food service  
11 operations. The Secretary of Education may use a portion of the funds  
12 appropriated for this training session to pay a portion of or all expenses for  
13 attendees and to develop manuals or other materials to help in the training.

14 (b) The Secretary of Education shall ~~train people as funds are made~~  
15 ~~available to~~ provide training related to procurement and technical assistance to  
16 school food service personnel and use a portion of the funds appropriated for  
17 this purpose to enable the trained people to provide technical assistance at the  
18 school and school district levels.

19 (c) Training provided under this section shall promote the policies  
20 established in the Vermont ~~nutrition and fitness policy guidelines~~ School  
21 Wellness Policy Guidelines developed by the Agencies of Agriculture, Food

1 and Markets and of Education and the Department of Health, ~~dated November~~  
2 ~~2005~~ updated in June 2015, or the guidelines' successor.

3 § 4724. ~~LOCAL FOODS COORDINATOR~~ FOOD SYSTEMS  
4 ADMINISTRATOR

5 (a) The position of ~~local food coordinator~~ Food Systems Administrator is  
6 established in the ~~agency of agriculture, food and markets~~ Agency of  
7 Agriculture, Food and Markets for the purpose of assisting Vermont producers  
8 ~~to increase~~ in increasing their access to commercial markets and institutions,  
9 including schools, ~~state~~ State and municipal governments, and hospitals.

10 (b) The duties of the ~~local foods coordinator~~ Food Systems Administrator  
11 shall include:

12 (1) working with institutions, distributors, producers, commercial  
13 markets, and others to create matchmaking opportunities that increase the  
14 number of Vermont institutions that purchase foods grown or produced in  
15 Vermont;

16 (2) coordinating funding and providing support to the farm-to-school  
17 and farm-to-institutions programs within the ~~agency of agriculture, food and~~  
18 ~~markets~~ Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and coordinating with  
19 interested parties to create matchmaking opportunities across the supply chain  
20 that increase participation in those programs;

1           (3) encouraging and facilitating ~~the enrollment of state employees~~ State  
2           employee access and awareness of opportunities for purchasing local food,  
3           including: enrollment in a local community supported agriculture (CSA)  
4           organization, purchasing from local farm stands, and participation in a  
5           downtown farmers' market;

6           (4) developing a database of producers and potential purchasers and  
7           enhancing the ~~agency's website~~ Agency and partners' ability to improve and  
8           support local foods coordination through the use of information  
9           technology; and

10          (5) providing technical support to local communities with their food  
11          security efforts.

12          (c) The ~~local foods coordinator~~ Food Systems Administrator, working with  
13          the ~~commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of  
14          Buildings and General Services pursuant to rules adopted under 29 V.S.A.  
15          § 152(14), shall:

16               (1) encourage and facilitate ~~CSA enrollment~~ awareness of and  
17               opportunities to procure healthy local foods by ~~state~~ State employees through  
18               the use of approved advertisements and solicitations on ~~state-owned~~  
19               State-owned property; and

20               (2) implement guidelines for the appropriate use of ~~state~~ State property  
21               for employee participation in CSA organizations, including reasonable

1 restrictions on the time, place, and manner of solicitations, advertisements,  
2 deliveries, and related activities to ensure the safety and welfare of ~~state~~ State  
3 property and its occupants.

4 (d) The ~~local foods coordinator~~ Food Systems Administrator shall  
5 administer a local foods grant program, the purpose of which shall be to  
6 provide grants to allow Vermont producers to increase their access to  
7 commercial and institutional markets.

8 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.